

MODERN CLASSICS

Disney

ENCANTO

GLUED DOWN



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The story of *Encanto* focuses on Mirabel Madrigal, a fifteen-year-old girl, and her magical family in Colombia. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

NEYSA BOVÉ / DIGITAL (previous and 70–71)

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As a little girl, I spent my days as most kids did: playing softball, riding bikes and hanging out with my friends. I never dreamed I would one day be working at Walt Disney Animation Studios on films that are seen all over the world and by generations of people. Working here and being a part of this studio has genuinely been a gift in my life.

But in the beginning, working in the studio with some of the best artists in the world was a bit intimidating – especially because I was not an artist and didn't really know how I fit in. I remember looking around the studio, seeing everyone do these amazing things and wanting so badly to feel like I could contribute as much as everyone else. I wanted to know I belonged here and to feel like I made a difference at the studio. For so long, I quietly worked with a smile on my face, but inside I wondered if I would ever feel like I truly fit in.

I think this is one of the reasons why I love Mirabel so much. She wants so badly to contribute to her family at the same amazing level as everyone else, but she knows she can't. Even so, she doesn't let the fact that she didn't get a gift keep her down. Over time, we see her discover that things are not always as they seem. In the end, by simply being herself, Mirabel's true gift shines through and she finds her place within the family. And in the final song, everyone else begins to realise her gift was there all along and it was the one thing they needed to save the family.

In my own life, it took some time, but I eventually found my place. I took on roles that led me to becoming a producer, a job that allows me to use my gifts to help bring all the pieces of a film together to create a beautiful piece of art.

As you read through the story, I hope you see yourself in these characters. Maybe you know exactly what your gift is or maybe you are still trying to figure it out and how you fit in. But no matter where you are in that journey, know you are special and unique. There is only one you and nobody does you better! Just as Mirabel changed her family forever by being herself, you can change the world simply by being who you truly are.

Yvett Merino
Producer
Walt Disney Animation Studios

On the evening of her fifth birthday, a Colombian girl named Mirabel sat in the nursery of her home with her eyes closed, waiting to receive a very special gift.

'Open your eyes,' Mirabel's grandmother, Alma, said, revealing a magical candle.

Mirabel gasped as beams of golden light reflected off her large, round spectacles and danced about the room.



Abuela Alma's magical candle is an important part of the story of *Encanto*, offering light in the darkness. DAVID VAN TUYLE / DIGITAL



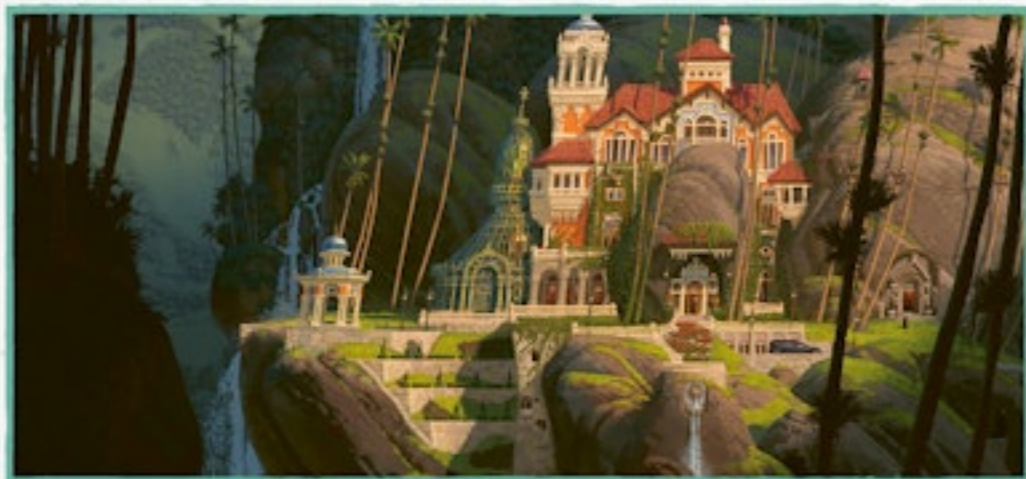
The animation sequence for the prologue is laid out, highlighting key moments in the story. DAN COOPER / DIGITAL

Mirabel snuggled in close as Abuela Alma began to tell the story of the candle and the magic it had brought into their lives. 'This candle holds the miracle given to our family,' she said, and the story began.

Alma told her granddaughter that the candle had been with her for many years. Light from the candle shone on her and Mirabel's grandfather, Pedro Madrigal, when they welcomed triplets into the world. The same candle lit their way through the darkness when they were forced to flee their home because it was no longer safe. Others travelled with them, guided by the candle's light, hoping it would lead them to refuge.

But not all who followed the Madrigals were friends. The violent men who had forced them from their homes were close behind. Mirabel's grandfather, Pedro, turned to face the danger and died in the fight.

Cradling her three infants in her arms, Alma fell to her knees, lost in the darkness of her grief.



The design of the Madrigal's family home needed to incorporate its own magic and personality. Production designer Ian Gooding created a visual of the casita, imagining it changing and growing over the years. IAN GOODING / DIGITAL

But in that darkness, Alma was given a miracle. The candle, which had guided them from their homes, became a magical flame that could never be extinguished. Alma watched as the light from the candle transformed the land on which she stood.

Mountains rose and an abundant forest grew to shield Alma and the travellers from danger. From the bare earth at Alma's feet, a beautiful house emerged and came to life. It was a casita, a home filled with joy and magic – an *Encanto*.

As years passed, the magic of the candle stayed with Alma, protecting her children and the town it had built, but it had more in store.

When Alma's three babies turned five years old, the magic of the candle guided each of them to a door inside their house. Beyond these doors, each child discovered a unique magical gift, and when their children came of age the magic had gifts for them, too. Alma's children and grandchildren used these gifts to make the family strong, and turn their home into a paradise.

Tonight was Mirabel's fifth birthday, which meant soon she would discover her own unique gift. Mirabel's grandmother told her that whatever her gift might be she was sure it would be as special as Mirabel herself.

As the ceremony was about to begin, Abuela Alma showed Mirabel the candle. Mirabel left the nursery excited to discover what her gift would be and determined to make her family proud.



The story of *Encanto* is filled with magical realism. The movement of the house brings it to life, making it a character in its own right alongside the family. CAMILLE ANDRE / DIGITAL



Mirabel is the only member of her family without a magical gift. This feeling of isolation was a key part of her character development. **BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL**

Ten years later, the very same Mirabel Madrigal awoke in the very same nursery on the morning of her cousin Antonio's gifting ceremony. It was a busy day with lots to do, and Mirabel needed to get ready fast. Thankfully Casita, the magical house, was happy to help. The floorboards nudged Mirabel's shoes towards her feet, and as she got dressed, tossing clothes about the room, the laundry basket moved to meet them.

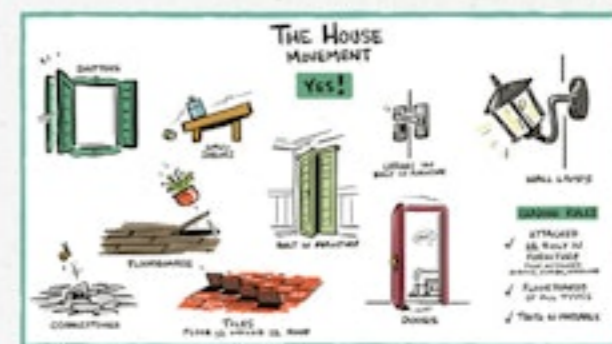
'Make your family proud,' Mirabel said to herself as she left her room. To hasten her on her way, the tiled stairs of Casita transformed into a slide. Mirabel skidded down expertly, bidding good morning to a portrait of her grandfather Pedro as she passed.

Mirabel and Casita got to work. Mirabel set the table for breakfast, as Casita threw wide its green shutters to let in the light of the day.

Outside, children from the town were excited about their friend Antonio's birthday ceremony. They called to Mirabel, asking her what Antonio's gift would be.

Mirabel told them that they would have to wait to find out, but that only made the children more curious. They wanted to know more about the magic, the ceremony and about Mirabel's own gift.

But Mirabel did not like to talk about herself. Today wasn't about her, it was about Antonio and the family, so instead she told them all about the amazing Madrigals.



Authentic movements for the house were set out in the design process. **JASON HAND / DIGITAL**



The costumes in *Encanto* were inspired by outfits found in the Andean region of Colombia, where the film is set. **NEYSA BOVÉ / DIGITAL**

As the Madrigals got ready for the day, Mirabel explained that she came from a family of stars. At their centre, Abuela Alma made sure everyone knew their place.

When the family left for work, Mirabel introduced them to the children, explaining each of their gifts.

First was her Tía Pepa who controlled the weather with her emotions. Mirabel also had a Tío Bruno who could see the future, but Bruno disappeared and nobody talked about him. Mirabel's mother, Julieta, could heal people with the food that she cooked.

Mirabel said that the family grew larger when her Tía Pepa married a man named Félix and had children, and when her mother married her father, Agustín and had Mirabel and her two sisters. The children were confused. They didn't know who were Mirabel's sisters and who were her cousins.

Mirabel explained that her cousins were Dolores, Camilo and Antonio. Dolores had the gift of being able to hear the quietest sounds and Camilo could shapeshift to look like other people. Mirabel said Antonio would find out his gift that evening.

Mirabel's sisters were Luisa and Isabela. Luisa was incredibly strong, Isabela could make flowers bloom wherever she walked.

Mirabel told the children everything she could but when she tried to leave, the children had one more question.

'What is your gift?' asked a little girl.



The extended Madrigal family, and the relationships between them, form the basis for the movie.
LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL



When designing the townspeople, artists had to balance giving the villagers individuality without pulling focus from the main characters. JIN KIM / DIGITAL

Mirabel tried to dodge the question, but they wouldn't let it go.

When Abuela Alma saw Mirabel surrounded by children, she asked her what she was doing.

'She was about to tell us about her super-awesome gift!' a girl exclaimed.

Hearing the commotion, Cousin Dolores popped her head out of the door to say that Mirabel didn't have a gift.

The children were devastated. Mirabel tried explain that she didn't mind not having a gift, but was interrupted by a delivery for Antonio's celebration.

'If I was you I'd be really sad,' one of the children said.

Mirabel replied that she knew that she was as special as any of the other Madrigals, even without a gift.

Back at Casita, preparations for Antonio's party were underway. Staircases shifted to where they were needed and flowers hung from every surface. But Pepa's nerves were conjuring a storm that threatened to destroy the decorations. Isabela wouldn't let that happen. Descending into the courtyard on a magical vine, Isabela conjured even more perfect blossoms.

Everyone showered Isabela with praise. Isabela brushed this off, but as she left, she bumped into Mirabel. Isabela was cross and told Mirabel unkindly that she would be more help out of everybody's way. Mirabel said that she was doing her best, before walking into a post. Isabela rolled her eyes at her clumsy sister.



Isabela's outfit is decorated with Colombian flowers including orchids, the national flower of Colombia. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL, MEG PARK / DIGITAL, BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL



Agustin's suit alludes to the fact he may have grown up in a city, setting him apart from the rest of the family. JIN KIM / DIGITAL

Mirabel carried the decorations into the kitchen as her mother worried they were too heavy for her. Mirabel said she just wanted to help.

Mirabel's father was worried, too. He knew what it was like not having a gift – he was allergic to bee stings and relied on Julieta's magic to heal him. Mirabel's parents wanted her to know that she had nothing to prove.

Mirabel carried the decorations past pictures of her exceptional family, but her photo was not among them. This was because the only exceptional thing about Mirabel was that she was ordinary.

Mirabel was used to not being magical. She preferred to be useful and at the moment, she was being useful by preparing a present for her beloved grandmother. Mirabel was putting the finishing touches to her decoration when her grandmother called out, 'One hour!'

Startled, Mirabel dropped a candle and set fire to the present she had laboured so hard over. Mirabel tried to stomp out the flames.

Seeing the mess, Abuela Alma told Mirabel that the best thing she could do was to step aside and let the family do what they did best. After the disappointment of Mirabel's ceremony, Abuela Alma wanted the night to go perfectly to preserve the magic and continue to serve the community.

Mirabel nodded sadly. She knew how to step aside.



The kitchen was designed to feel homely and welcoming. Artwork depicting the traditional black pottery from the La Chamba Community adds an authentic feel to the space. MAC GEORGE / DIGITAL



Each character's room is a reflection of their personality. Mirabel's room includes dolls and a clay house maquette that is common in Colombia, as well as wallpaper inspired by animals found in the country. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

As Mirabel walked to her room, she overheard her mother asking Abuela Alma to go easy on Mirabel. Her mother was worried that Antonio's ceremony would be difficult for Mirabel after her own had been such a disappointment. Tía Pepa was worried too, because Antonio was nowhere to be found.

In her bedroom, Mirabel dangled a package over the bed, like a fisherman.

'This present will self-destruct if you don't take it in three, two...'
When Mirabel reached one, small hands grabbed the gift and pulled it under the bed. The hands belonged to Antonio.

Mirabel joined her young cousin under the bed. Antonio was nervous about the ceremony. Mirabel assured him he had nothing to worry about and that he would get the best gift ever. Antonio said he wished Mirabel had received a gift at her ceremony. Mirabel felt this deeply, but she told Antonio that she had everything she needed and that seeing him get his gift would make her happier than anything.

Mirabel reminded him of the package. When Antonio opened it he found a stuffed jaguar inside. Mirabel said she made it so that he would have something to comfort him in his new room.

Suddenly, Casita rattled its floorboards to tell them it was time to go. The ceremony was about to begin.

Key moments of the scene are sketched in sequence, showing the close bond between Mirabel and Antonio. JASON HAND / DIGITAL



Outside, the guests were arriving. Strong and reliable Luisa helped by collecting the donkeys people arrived on, and Camilo used his shapeshifting to welcome them. Casita helped too, taking people's hats while Isabela showered everyone in flowers.

Mirabel's grandmother stood in the courtyard, bathed in the light of the magical candle and told the story of how it had blessed her with a miracle. She said it had been a great honour to use its magic to serve the local community.

'Tonight we come together once more as another steps into the light... to make us proud.' Abuela Alma instructed Casita to open the curtains to reveal Antonio, frozen with fear.

'I need you,' Antonio said, appealing to Mirabel.

Reluctantly, Mirabel stepped forward to walk Antonio to his door. Although Mirabel wanted to help, each step was a reminder of her own ceremony. The ceremony which had been a disappointment to herself, her family and to the whole community. The ceremony where she discovered she had no gift and the magical future she longed for disappeared. But tonight was not about her. Mirabel pushed her feelings to one side and walked Antonio towards Abuela Alma.

'Will you use your gift to honour our miracle? Will you serve this community and strengthen our home?' Abuela Alma asked. Antonio nodded.

Everyone held their breath as Antonio reached towards the door handle.



Antonio's outfit changes from simple white to a more colourful version after he has received his gift. His costume was inspired from outfits found on the Caribbean coast and incorporates the animals he can now communicate with. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

As Antonio touched the doorknob, his body was engulfed in magic. A toucan flew to his shoulder and squawked as if saying something. Thanks to his brand-new gift, Antonio understood and answered.

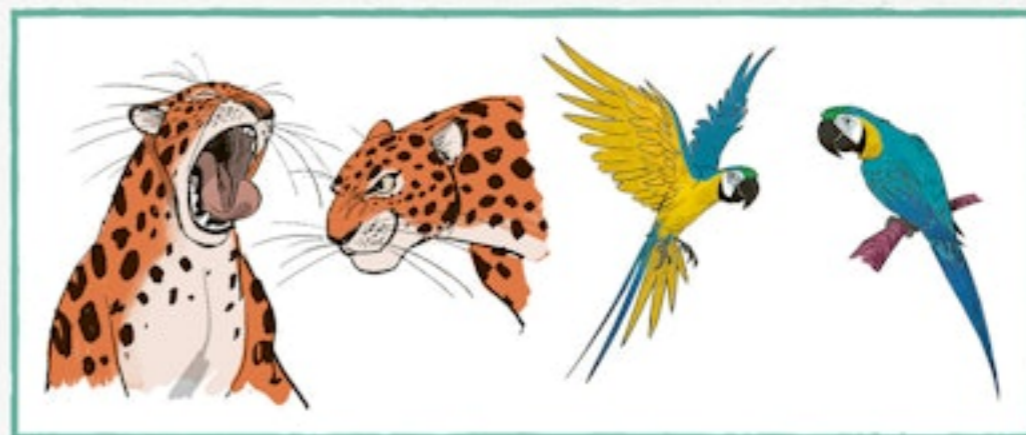
At Antonio's word, animals of all kinds descended upon the party, hooting and squawking, eager to meet Antonio and celebrate his gift.

'We have a new gift!' Abuela Alma cried as fireworks lit up the sky. The door to Antonio's room flew open to reveal a rainforest, alive with animals. Delighted, Antonio explored the vast landscape of his room.

'A gift just as special as you,' Abuela Alma said proudly to Antonio.



Antonio's room is based on the rainforest in the Chocó region of Colombia. The team researched the vegetation that would grow in the area in order for it to feel authentic to the region. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL



Each animal was designed to look beautiful and fun while still maintaining a realistic feel. None of the animals talk or behave in a way that seems human. JIN KIM / DIGITAL, NICK ORSI / DIGITAL

But her grandmother's words unlocked something within Mirabel. All the feelings she had pushed to one side for Antonio came flooding back. After watching her family gather for a photograph, Mirabel stole away to be alone.

As much as Mirabel told herself that she was special, she didn't believe it. Mirabel could not carry heavy loads, she couldn't conjure flowers or cure the sick, nor could she control the weather. Mirabel longed for her chance to shine. Mirabel begged for her own piece of the magic, but she knew that it was hopeless.

As Mirabel gazed at her home in despair, something unthinkable happened. A tile from the strong roof fell to the ground and shattered.

Mirabel picked up the tile and cut her hand. She looked at the ground – the floor of the courtyard was moving. Suddenly, a crack appeared and started to grow. Mirabel followed the crack up the stairs, past the picture of her grandfather and along towards her grandmother's room, and the magical candle. As the cracks spread, the candle's bright flame dimmed, before plunging Casita into complete darkness.

Meanwhile, in Antonio's room, the magic flowed freely. Guests danced, and even Abuela Alma joined in the fun. But suddenly Mirabel crashed through the door, her face lined with horror.



'Casita is in danger!' Mirabel cried.

The music ground to a halt as Mirabel told everyone about what she saw. The roof tile, the cracks in the walls and the candle going out.

The guests murmured to one another, not sure what to do. Abuela Alma asked Mirabel to show her. Mirabel lead everyone to the courtyard to look at her grandmother's bedroom and the candle. But instead of darkness and destruction the room looked as it always had. The candle shone brightly on the smooth walls, which showed no signs of cracks.

Mirabel tried to explain, but her grandmother would not listen. Instead, Abuela Alma told everyone that the magic was just fine and they should go back to the party.

The courtyard at the centre of Casita is symmetrical with the rooms around it to reflect real Colombian houses.
MATTHIAS LECHNER / DIGITAL



To reflect Julieta's healing gift, a range of Colombian herbs were incorporated into her outfit to symbolise both healing and cooking.
GRISELDA SASTRAWINATA-LEMAY / DIGITAL

In the kitchen, Mirabel showed her mother the cut on her hand. Surely that proved it wasn't all in her head – she would never do anything to spoil Antonio's night.

But Julieta would only concede that it had been a very difficult night for Mirabel. Mirabel was frustrated – she wanted her mother to understand that she may not have a magical gift, but that didn't mean she didn't look out for her family. It was the family she was trying to protect.

'I wish you could see yourself the way I do.'

her mother said. 'You are just as special as everyone else in this family.'

Mirabel didn't believe her mother. Julieta was worried that if Mirabel carried on the way she was going, she would lose her way in the family, just like Bruno had. Julieta didn't want that to happen and hoped Mirabel would feel better after a good night's sleep.

But Mirabel did not have a good night's sleep. Wide awake, Mirabel left her room to check for evidence of what she had seen. Mirabel looked up towards the candle in her grandmother's window but the walls were free of cracks. Mirabel wondered how that could be, when she realised that she was not alone.

Abuela Alma couldn't sleep either.



The relationship between Mirabel and her mother contrasts with the relationship she shares with her grandmother.
JIN KIM / DIGITAL



The relationship between Abuela Alma and Mirabel is central to the movie as they both grapple with their position and responsibility to the family. JASON HAND / DIGITAL

Standing at her window, Abuela Alma held a picture of her late husband and spoke to him. She told him she was worried about what Mirabel had seen and begged him to help her protect the family and the miracle.

Abuela Alma may not have got the answer she was looking for, but Mirabel got the answer she needed – the magic was in danger and she needed to save the miracle.

Mirabel rushed back to her bedroom. How could she save a miracle? Casita rattled its shutters in answer. Mirabel took this to mean that first she needed to work out what was happening to the miracle. Mirabel didn't know how she would work that out but she knew she could count on her family to help.



Abuela Alma feels the weight of taking care of her family, as well as the wider village. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

At breakfast, Mirabel spoke to her cousin Dolores first. Dolores' hearing meant she heard everything in Casita. Dolores said that nobody was worried about the magic apart from Mirabel and the rats in the walls. Though she thought Luisa might be worried because she heard her twitching in the night.

Mirabel turned to her sister, but before she could ask her, Abuela Alma made them sit down at the table and addressed the family.

Too impatient to wait for her to finish, Mirabel whispered to her sister that she had heard she was stressed and wondered if she knew anything about the magic. As she spoke, Luisa's eye began to twitch.

'You do!' Mirabel cried.



Luisa is physically strong but has a softer edge shown through her costuming. BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL

Annoyed at the interruption, Abuela Alma asked Casita to move Mirabel's chair, before telling the family that a man named Mariano Guzmán planned to propose to Isabela. Dolores said he planned to propose that night and that he wanted five babies. Isabela looked nervous, but Abuela Alma said it would be good for the family.

By the time Mirabel caught up with Luisa, she was already hard at work. Mirabel asked Luisa about her twitch. Luisa said she couldn't be worried because it was her job to be strong. But as she went about her work, Luisa confessed she felt trapped. Luisa felt that if she ever showed weakness she would have no place in the family.

Mirabel told her that she thought she did too much. Luisa picked up Mirabel and gave her a hug. She said that when Mirabel told them she had seen the cracks in Casita, she felt weak. Luisa didn't know what was going wrong, but she had overheard that Bruno had a vision about it before he left. Nobody knew what this vision was, but if Mirabel wanted to find out, she should head to Bruno's tower.

With this, Luisa returned to her work. Mirabel's mind was in a spin, how would she even know if she had found a vision? Luisa said she would know when she found it, but warned her to be careful. Bruno's tower was off limits for a reason.



Luisa feels the weight of her responsibility to the family thanks to her gift of strength. BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL

Encouraged, Mirabel rushed home and up to Bruno's tower.

Mirabel opened the dusty old door to reveal a wall of sand cascading from the ceiling. Unable to see what lay beyond, Mirabel asked Casita to stop the sand, but Casita could not help her.

Bravely, Mirabel stepped through the door and tumbled down until she landed on a mountain of sand. When Mirabel looked up, she saw that Bruno's tower was a vast cavern with a seemingly endless flight of stairs leading upwards.



Bruno's room is isolated from the rest of the house, reflecting his position in the family. MATTHIAS LECHNER / DIGITAL

Mirabel had no choice but to see where it led. It was an arduous climb and Mirabel decided that Bruno's room was the worst in the Madrigal house. Gasping for breath, Mirabel reached the top, only to discover that the bridge ahead had crumbled into an abyss.

Mirabel saw a rope and used it to swing across the chasm. She made it! Mirabel stepped inside the inner sanctum to find an ancient temple containing a carved portrait of Bruno and a pile of sand. Was this it? Suddenly, the door slammed and Mirabel was left in the darkness.

As Mirabel's eyes adjusted to the dark, she saw a mysterious green glow coming from the sand. Mirabel reached in and pulled out a glowing green shard that looked like part of a picture. Mirabel searched through the sand for more pieces.

Elsewhere in Casita, Abuela Alma felt the house rumble and saw her beloved candle flicker.



The interior of Bruno's room was originally designed to feel more like a cave with architecture similar to a cathedral. CAMILLE ANDRE / DIGITAL

Unaware of the effect she was having, Mirabel pulled out more and more glowing green shards and assembled them to reveal a picture of herself.

'Me?' Mirabel said, puzzled. But Mirabel didn't have time to think. Casita rumbled violently and the temple began to collapse.

Mirabel gathered the shards into her bag. She hurried to the door, but it would not open. Mirabel pounded on the door, desperate to escape, when a wave of sand swept her to safety.

Mirabel hurried out of Bruno's room and bumped into Abuela Alma in the corridor.

Abuela Alma asked where Mirabel had been, but before she could answer, they were interrupted by Luisa, weeping.

After her talk with Mirabel, Luisa had tried carrying less but realised that meant she wasn't getting as much work done. When she tried to go back to how she was working before, she found that the loads were too heavy.



Abuela Alma has always felt the responsibility of protecting her family, as well as the town. MEG PARK / DIGITAL

Abuela Alma demanded to know what Mirabel had said to Luisa. Mirabel couldn't answer, and Abuela Alma didn't have time to wait. She was on the way to the Guzmáns. Abuela Alma forbade Mirabel from speaking to Luisa until she returned.

Later in her room, Mirabel looked at the pieces of Bruno's vision and wondered what it meant.

'Why am I in your vision, Bruno?' Mirabel wondered aloud.

At her doorway there was a crash of thunder. Mirabel looked up to see Tía Pepa standing in her doorway. The dark clouds above her head made it clear Pepa had heard Mirabel mention Bruno.



Pepa's gift and her emotions are intrinsically linked. JIN KIM / PENCIL, DIGITAL



The shirt Félix wears is a traditional guayabera, common in the Caribbean coast of Colombia. BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL

Mirabel asked what it would mean if Bruno had a vision about someone.

Tia Pepa said nothing, but Félix told her that Mirabel needed to know the truth. Félix told Mirabel that Bruno saw terrible things in his visions, and that once he had seen them, these terrible things would happen.

'What if the person in the vision didn't understand what he saw?' Mirabel asked.

Félix said that they had better figure it out quickly, because if Bruno saw it, it would happen soon. Félix urged Pepa to tell Mirabel what happened to her.

Pepa told Mirabel that on her wedding day the weather was beautiful, until Bruno told her it looked like rain. After his prediction, a storm blew and almost forced them to cancel their celebration. Thankfully, the ceremony went ahead happily.



1

The thought of Bruno made Pepa conjure a mighty wind. As Mirabel was tossed into the air, Dolores pulled her aside and told her that Bruno's visions made the family uncomfortable because they didn't always know what to do about them.

Camilo pulled Mirabel into a cave. Camilo shapeshifted into Bruno and told her how Bruno had always seemed like a monster – a person who thrived on people's worst fears.

When she came out from the cave, Mirabel found herself surrounded by people who had suffered from Bruno's visions. It seemed that everyone's worst nightmares had come true after Bruno's predictions. Everyone except Isabela.



2

Bruno's costume is his old ceremonial outfit that has worn and weathered in the years he has been gone. (1) JIN KIM / DIGITAL (2) MEG PARK / DIGITAL

Bruno said all of Isabela's dreams for the future would come true. Abuela Alma called out to say that Mariano Guzmán was on his way.

Hearing Mariano's name, just as she heard everything, Dolores told Mirabel that, unlike Isabela, Bruno predicted that her dreams would not come true, and that her true love would ask someone else to marry him.

As Mariano approached, Isabela warned Mirabel not to spoil everything. But Dolores wasn't done. She told Mirabel that sometimes she felt she could still hear Bruno. As the family prepared for Mariano's arrival and swapped stories about the mysterious Bruno, Mirabel crept back to her room.

In her room, Mirabel pulled out the shards and pieced them together. As the picture formed, the pieces glowed brighter and the tension in the house grew. Mirabel began to feel as though she had awoken something dangerous.



When Mirabel finds Bruno's vision, she can't make sense of it and she worries she is destroying her family's magic. CAMILLE ANDRE / DIGITAL

As Mirabel completed the puzzle, she saw the picture was of her worst fear – Mirabel standing in front of the Madrigal house as it fell to pieces.

Just at that moment, Mirabel's father arrived to take her downstairs to dinner with the Guzmáns and saw the vision fully assembled.

Mirabel didn't know what to say and so she told him everything – that she had broken into Bruno's room, found his vision and how she believed the magic was dying and Casita was falling apart because of her.

Agustín was stunned by what he heard when the doorbell sounded below – the Guzmáns had arrived.



Concept art that shows Mirabel's different moods and emotions. RENATO DOS ANJOS / PENCIL

Agustín acted fast. He told Mirabel not to say a word as he pushed the pieces into his pockets. Abuela Alma wanted the evening to be perfect and Mirabel must act as if nothing had happened.

Agustín hoped to keep it a secret, but someone else knew. Mirabel's heart sank when they saw Dolores across the courtyard. She had heard everything.

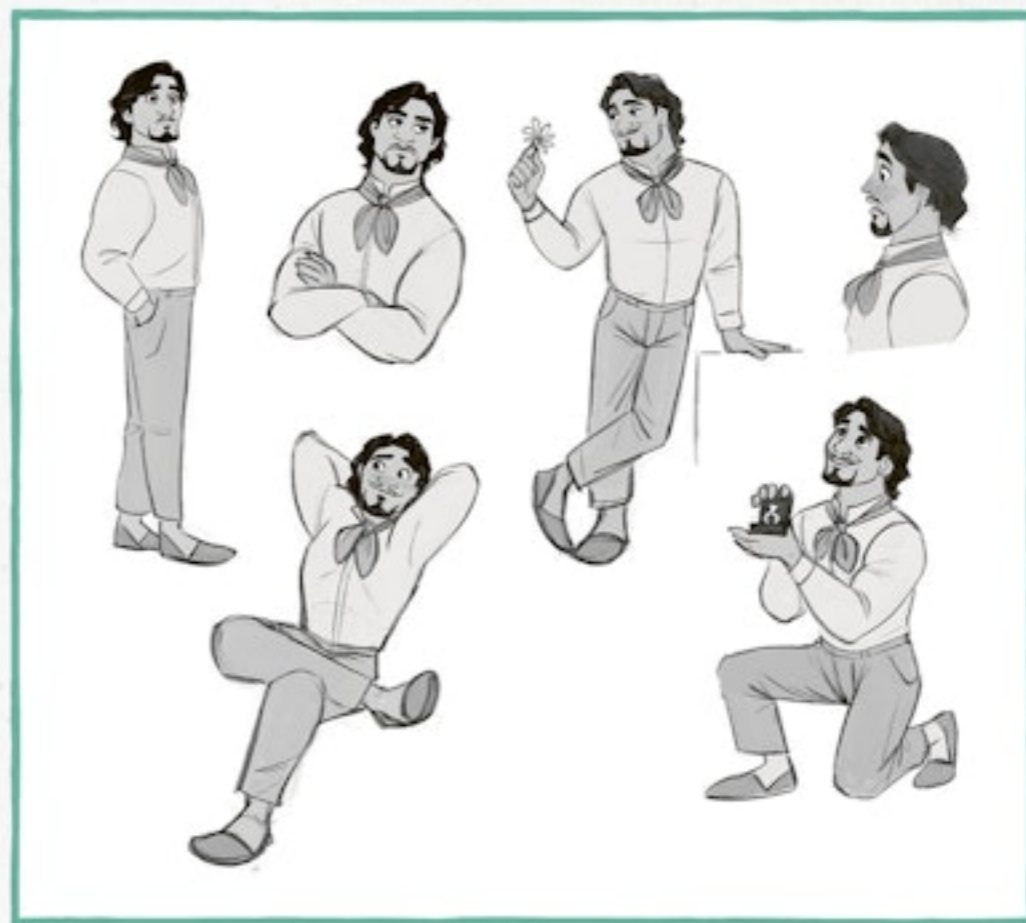
'Time to eat.' Abuela Alma called from downstairs.

In the dining room, the mood was tense as Dolores struggled to keep quiet. Mirabel watched from across the table as Dolores whispered into Camilo's ear. The news spread fast. Camilo told Félix who passed it onto Pepa. Storm clouds gathered over Pepa's head. When Julieta asked Pepa what was the matter, Pepa told her what she had heard. To avoid her mother's worried gaze, Mirabel looked down at her feet, only to see cracks spreading across the floor.

Mariano asked Mirabel what was wrong, but Mirabel was lost for words. Agustín rescued her, saying Mirabel was just excited about the engagement and that Mariano should propose right away. Mirabel agreed, and to move things along turned Isabela's chair around to face Mariano.

Mariano's grandmother said Mariano would like to sing to Isabela first. Señora Guzmán asked Luisa to bring over the piano, but Luisa's strength was fading. To divert attention from Luisa struggling, Mirabel announced that Madrigals only sing after a proposal, and pushed Mariano down on one knee.

With little choice, Mariano began his proposal. Mirabel tried to stand between the family and the spreading cracks so she did not notice as Antonio's animal friends removed fragments of the vision from her father's pockets.



Mariano's good looks were inspired by a variety of telenovela and Latino movie stars. Like Félix, he wears a traditional guaybena to ensure he felt like a part of the town. MEG PARK / DIGITAL

The family was in chaos. Pepa's storm frightened Antonio's toucan which flew at Señora Guzmán who demanded to know what was going on.

Unable to contain herself, Dolores told her that Mirabel found Bruno's vision and now they were all doomed.

At that moment, Antonio's animals completed the puzzle and everyone saw the glowing vision. As they looked, Casita began to tremble and everyone's magical gifts malfunctioned. Pepa caused a flood and Antonio's animals fled. Outside Casita, people from the town, already gathered to celebrate news of the engagement, witnessed the Madrigals in disarray. The Guzmáns left, followed by Abuela Alma.

Mirabel followed, but was stopped by Isabela who blamed her for ruining her engagement. Luisa wept for her lost strength and Pepa, engulfed in weather, demanded to know what Mirabel had done to cause this. Mirabel tried to explain that she hadn't done anything but was distracted by a familiar glow moving across the floor. It was a rat, carrying a piece of the vision. As Mirabel looked more closely, she noticed more rats carrying pieces up to the balcony. Mirabel followed to see where they were going.



After being shunned by his family, Bruno has developed a connection with the rats that live in Casita. JIN KIM / DIGITAL



As the only member of the family without a gift, Mirabel often feels overlooked by her family. This feeling was reflected in much of the concept art for the movie. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

Outside, Abuela Alma stood among the storm and the chaos assuring people that the magic was as strong as ever.

Mirabel trailed the rats up the stairs. At first Mirabel couldn't see where they went but then she noticed the tail of a rat disappear behind a painting.

Curious, Mirabel pulled aside the painting and found it concealed a passage in the wall. Mirabel stepped inside as the painting closed behind her.

The passage was dark and there was no sign of the rats. Suddenly, a flash of lightning illuminated the tunnel to reveal the figure of a hooded man. Mirabel saw a rat scurry up the figure and give him a shard of the vision before the passage fell back into darkness. When lightning flashed again, the figure was gone. Mirabel ran down the passage looking for the hooded man, but he was fast.

'Stop!' Mirabel cried as she ran. Suddenly, the man leapt over a gap in the floor. Mirabel tried to follow, but didn't make it to the other side. Mirabel clung to a piece of splintered floorboard but she could not pull herself up. Mirabel cried for help, and as her grasp was about to slip, a hand took a hold of hers.

The hand belonged to her Tio Bruno. Bruno tried to hang on, but fell in himself. Mirabel caught him but she couldn't hang on and Bruno fell.

When he dropped, they found they had only been inches off the ground. Realising they weren't in danger, Bruno said goodbye.

Bruno's room is made up from lots of old or broken furniture. His table looks into the family dining room, as though he is still part of the family from afar. MAC GEORGE / DIGITAL

But Mirabel was full of questions. She wanted to know about his vision, the magic and why he was back.

'How long have you been... back here?' Mirabel asked, looking around.

Mirabel explored the corridor and Bruno's room and realised that the rats were his friends and this was his home. She asked him why he never left the house.



Bruno made excuses about the high mountains and free food, but finally confessed that he wanted to be close to his family but couldn't be with them because his gift always upset them. By staying hidden, he could be close to them without hurting them. Now he wanted *Mirabel* to leave.

But *Mirabel* wanted to know about the vision and if her searching for answers was hurting the family.

Bruno didn't know. He had the vision on the night of *Mirabel's* ceremony and after she did not receive a gift, his mother, *Alma*, wanted him to discover what it meant.

In his vision, Bruno saw *Casita* crumbling and *Mirabel* standing among it, but it wasn't clear and he didn't know what that meant.



Bruno's gift of visions of the future eventually drove him away from his family.
ZAC RETZ / DIGITAL

Bruno knew how much his vision would upset people and how bad it would be for *Mirabel*. To protect his family and his beloved niece, Bruno destroyed the vision before concealing himself inside the walls of *Casita*.

Mirabel could see why the vision was unclear. Sometimes when she looked the cracks grew around her, but later it looked like she was driving them away.

'I wished I could've seen more,' Bruno shrugged, shooing her out. But *Mirabel* wouldn't go – instead she asked him to have another vision to see more.

Bruno refused, not only because he did not like having visions, but also because *Mirabel* had destroyed his cave. To have a vision, Bruno needed an open space and he didn't know where to find one.

'Use my room,' a voice behind them said. It was *Antonio* – the rats had told him everything and he wanted to help.

Mirabel told Bruno that the family needed him and that he needed to come out from behind the walls. Looking around, Bruno couldn't help but agree.



The company's internal Walt Disney Animation Studios' Black Employees group helped to find the final design for *Antonio*. MEG PARK / DIGITAL

Meanwhile, storm clouds gathered as Abuela Alma scolded Agustín for not telling her about the vision. She said he needed to think about the family. Agustín said he was thinking of Mirabel but Abuela Alma wouldn't listen. She was worried about the magic. At that moment, a man arrived to tell her that the town was anxious and wanted to see her.

Abuela Alma told Agustín and Julieta to find Mirabel and ask her about the vision. Casita trembled as she left.

Mirabel felt the tremor in Antonio's room as Bruno prepared a circle of sand to conjure his vision.

Bruno told Mirabel he was worried that if she didn't like what he saw, she would blame him

An early concept drawing of Bruno and Mirabel shows them stepping into one of Casita's magical rooms.
LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL



for making bad things happen, just as people had done before he left. But Mirabel didn't believe Bruno made bad things happen. She thought people who didn't fit in sometimes got blamed for things they didn't do.

Bruno held his hands out to Mirabel and told her to hold on tight. Bruno's eyes glowed a brilliant green as the magic grew within him. The sand rose and swirled around them into a dome. Bruno looked up as green shapes transformed into the vision of Mirabel standing in front of Casita.

Bruno didn't want to look any further. The vision was the same as the one that forced him to leave the family. But Mirabel wanted to see what happened next. Mirabel looked deep into the swirling sand and spotted a flash of gold.

The flash fixed into the shape of a butterfly which fluttered away before transforming into the magical candle, burning brightly as the cracks in Casita disappeared. In front of the candle, the image of Mirabel appeared with someone else. But who? Bruno thought Mirabel might have to fight this person, before the pair embraced.

As the magic swirled the figure glowed into focus and Mirabel was dismayed to discover that the figure she was embracing was her sister, Isabela.

Bruno thought this was wonderful, until he saw Mirabel's face wrinkled in disgust.

Mirabel told Bruno that she didn't know how she would get her perfect sister to hug her when she didn't even like her, especially since she ruined Mariano's proposal.

Bruno reminded Mirabel that the vision wasn't about Isabela being perfect or liking her. The vision was about Mirabel saving the family. The future of the family's magic depended on her.



Early art of the doorways in Casita. Each room in the house reflects its inhabitant's gift thanks to the family's magic. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

But Bruno wouldn't be able to help her –



Linking to her gift, Isabela's room is covered in pink and pastel flowers, giving it a princess-like feel. CAMILLE ANDRE / DIGITAL

he was too scared to see Abuela Alma. Bruno asked Mirabel to come and visit him after saving the miracle. Mirabel promised that if she saved the miracle, she would bring him home.

Moments later, Mirabel knocked on Isabela's door and entered before hearing an answer.

Isabela's room was filled with roses and blossoms in every shade of pink, purple and orange, covering every surface. Mirabel walked over the scattered petals and called to Isabela that she wanted to be a better sister to her and thought they needed to hug.

But Isabela did not want a hug.



As Isabela realises she doesn't always need to be perfect, she feels free to be herself which is reflected during her song, 'What Else Can I Do?'. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

As Isabela climbed off her bed, suspended by floral vines, she said Mirabel must be out of her mind to think she would hug her when she had ruined her proposal and caused Luisa to lose her strength.

If Mirabel really wanted to be a better sister, Isabela said, she should apologise to her. But Mirabel could not apologise. Mirabel resented that her sister's life had always been perfect while hers was not. She felt this meant she had nothing to apologise for.

Isabela was angry. She said that she'd never wanted to be perfect, it was what the family expected from her. She had only agreed to marry Mariano to make the family happy.

At this unexpected confession, something even more unexpected happened – Isabela conjured a far from perfect cactus out of the floor. Isabela was shocked to have made such a thing. She confessed that she had grown tired of making things beautiful. She wanted to discover what else she could do, so she ran about conjuring cactuses and strange looking plants and making the most magnificent mess.

Mirabel was astonished – not only at the mess, but also because, just like Luisa, Isabela struggled under the weight of the family's expectations. Mirabel told her she couldn't wait to see what Isabela did next. The sisters embraced, as if seeing each other for the first time.

'What is going on?' cried Abuela Alma, alarmed by the mess.

Mirabel was excited to tell her grandmother about the vision and how she was going to save the miracle. But Abuela Alma would not listen. She could only see her house and Isabela in disarray and Mirabel as the cause.

When Mirabel tried to tell her why Isabela wasn't happy, Abuela Alma wouldn't let her finish. She said Isabela wasn't happy because Mirabel had ruined her proposal and told her to stop.

Casita shook as Abuela Alma locked eyes with her granddaughter. She told her that everything was falling apart because of her. Abuela Alma said that she didn't know why Mirabel wasn't given a gift but that she would not let her hurt the family any more.



The cracks that appear in Casita are reflective of the family's problems and miscommunication.
SETH BOYDEN / DIGITAL

Broken by her grandmother's words, Mirabel realised that she would never be enough for her. She told Abuela Alma that it didn't matter how strong or perfect any of them were, they would never be enough either.

'The miracle is dying because of you!' Mirabel cried, as Casita started to crumble. Cracks raced up the wall toward the candle.

Mirabel hurried to save it, asking Casita to help her. The house lowered a railing for her to climb to the window. Isabela and Camilo tried to help with their powers, but their magic was fading.

Antonio's animals fled as his magic and his door faded. Antonio's father pulled him to safety. Agustín tried to get Mirabel out too but she was determined to save the magic.

On the roof, Mirabel stretched as far as she could, but when she finally caught hold of the candle, Bruno's tower collapsed onto the roof. Casita used the last of its magic to shield Mirabel with its shutters. Mirabel was safe, but she was too late to save the magic. Mirabel watched as the candle went out.



As Casita crumbles, it seems the magic has been lost and Mirabel is to blame.
LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL



The family was safe, but Casita was in ruins. Mirabel ran away to the river and wept in despair. It was all her fault.

A voice called Mirabel's name. She looked up to see her grandmother.

Mirabel told her that she hadn't meant to hurt the family, but her grandmother couldn't hear her – instead she looked toward the river. Abuela Alma told Mirabel that this was where her life changed forever, where Abuelo Pedro died. Before Pedro died she had dreamt of a very different future. In an instant, all of her dreams disappeared and she was blessed with a miracle.

From that moment, Alma clung to everything she had left – her children, her home and her strength. As time passed she clung even more tightly, frightened that each blessing only gave them more to lose, unaware she was crushing them with her fears. Abuela Alma had been given a miracle but lost sight of who it was for.

'We are broken... because of me,' Abuela Alma said.

But Mirabel knew that Abuela Alma hadn't told the whole story. Although she had brought the house down, Abuela Alma was also the reason for the miracle. It was her strength that kept the family together and now they would rebuild Casita, and the magic, together.

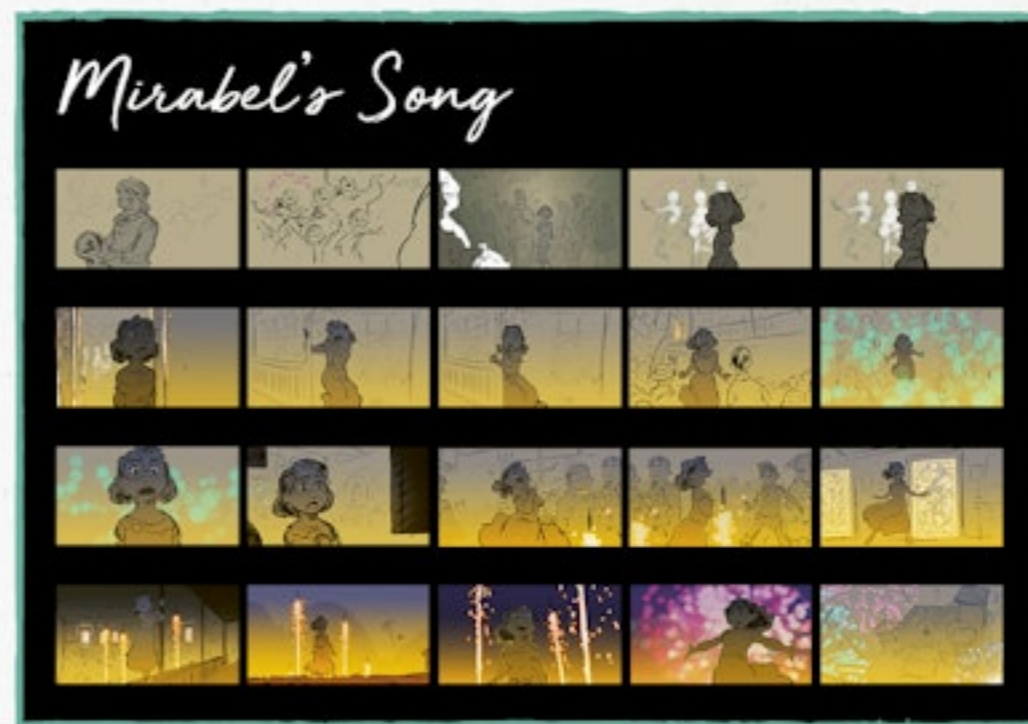


Abuela Alma looked at her brave granddaughter in awe.

'I asked my Pedro for help. Mirabel... he sent me you.' Abuela Alma said.

As they embraced, a butterfly fluttered by and filled the air with a new magic.

Mirabel and Abuela Alma set off back to Casita, but their path was blocked by a hooded figure riding a horse. It was Bruno.



The storyboard shows Alma's story from when she was young and first met Pedro.
BYRON HOWARD / DIGITAL

BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL (opposite)

'She didn't do this! She didn't do this! I gave her a vision!' Bruno cried. But his mother did not need an explanation, instead she swept him into her arms, happy to hold her son once more.

Mirabel climbed up onto the horse with Bruno and Abuela and rode home a conquering hero.



Bruno is finally reunited with the family after years in isolation. ZAC RETZ AND BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL

At the house, her mother and father told her how worried they'd been. Mirabel's father was covered in bee stings but he assured her he would be okay. Camilo didn't know how; without the magic, Julieta would not be able to make her healing food.

Mirabel told the family that together they would build a house to fit who they really were, not just their gifts. Abuela Alma agreed.

She told everyone she was sorry – she loved them for who they were, not just because of what they could do for the family.

Then attention turned to Bruno. First he apologised to Pepa. Bruno confessed that the vision he had on her wedding day wasn't a vision at all. He told her there was going to be a storm because he could see her stress was going to create one anyway. He wanted her not to worry because, rain or shine, he thought she was wonderful. Félix agreed. He loved his wife and the weather she created.

Bruno wanted to make more apologies, but his family wouldn't let him. They were just glad to have him home.



With better understanding and openness, the Madrigals' relationships are healed and the family connection is rebuilt. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

The joyous reunion was interrupted by people from the town arriving with tools. They did not have magical gifts, but they had many hands and wanted to help.

Together with the town, the Madrigals built a new house. Mirabel and her sisters had never been closer. Things were different but they were much happier, helping each other to achieve their dreams.

But Isabela's dream did not include Mariano. Mariano said his heart was filled with love, which he longed to share, so Mirabel told him about her cousin Dolores.

On hearing her name, Dolores appeared and confessed to Mariano how she had longed for him to notice her. Mariano was delighted and asked her to marry him. Dolores laughed and told him to slow down.

When the house was complete, it looked very different to the one that stood before. It wasn't perfect, but neither were the Madrigals.



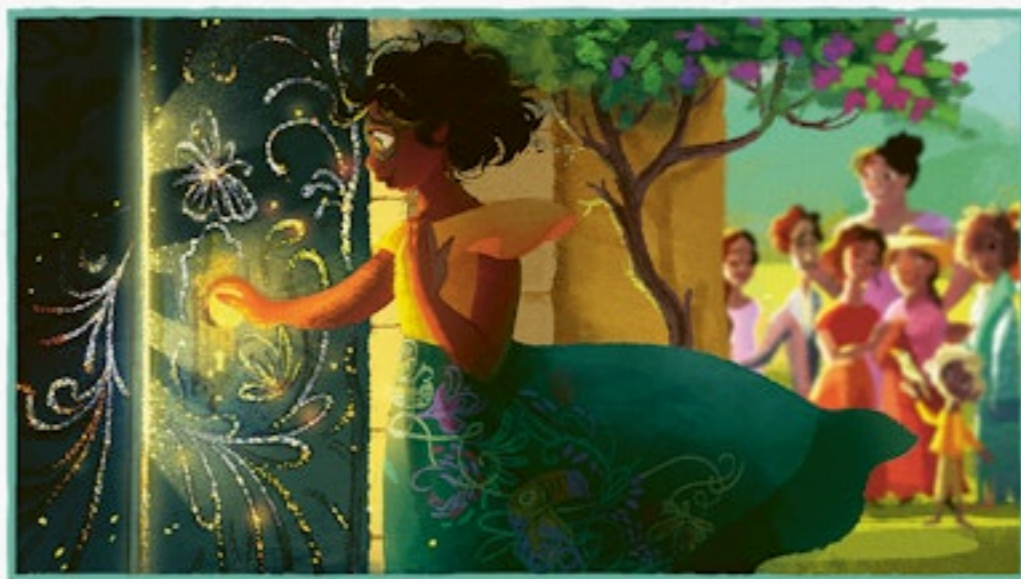
Although Casita is destroyed, the new connection between the family creates a new miracle – rebuilding the house. CAMILLE ANDRE / DIGITAL

Before they could celebrate, Abuela Alma said there was one thing Mirabel needed to do.

'Open your eyes,' Abuela Alma said, as she gave Mirabel her very own golden doorknob. When Mirabel placed the knob in the front door, magic flooded the house and brought Casita to life.

Mirabel greeted Casita, before it whisked her through the door. Once inside, the family's powers were restored, but in a new way. Luisa was strong but knew how to relax, and although Isabela could grow flowers, they weren't always pretty.

Casita corralled the Madrigals together for a new portrait – an imperfect picture of an imperfect family who loved each other just the way they were.

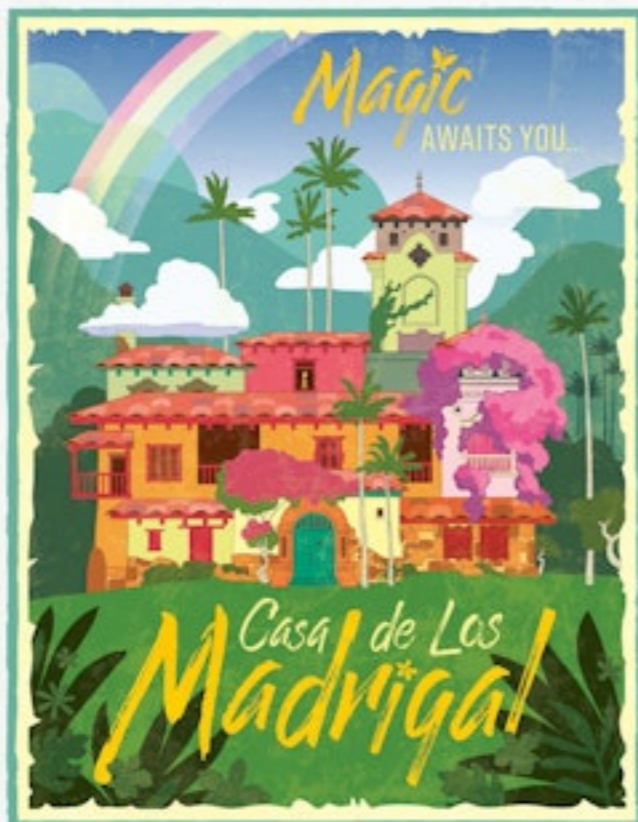


At the end of the movie, Mirabel is the catalyst for the new miracle that restores the magic in Casita. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL

The Art of Disney Encanto

Encanto began back in 2016 when Byron Howard and Jared Bush began development on Walt Disney Animation Studios' take on a Latin American musical. The film was always planned to be around family and so the shape of the movie, and the characters that are known and loved today began to evolve. The team travelled to Colombia and met with consultants to learn more about the country and its history to ensure the culture and environments shown on screen were authentic.

From the beginning, Lin-Manuel Miranda was a creative partner so music was always an important part of the creative process. The film took five years to complete and since release in 2021, *Encanto* has delighted audiences around the world. The film received three Oscar® nominations, including Best Original Score and Best Original Song, and won Best Animated Feature.



The magic of *Encanto* is centred around Casita, the home of the Madrigal family.

Disney Studio Artists

LORELAY BOVÉ

Concept art on pages 4, 15, 17, 20, 23, 24, 31, 45, 50–51, 52, 54, 57, 61, 63, 68, 69.

BILL SCHWAB

Concept art on pages 12, 17, 32, 33, 38, 58, 60.

DAVID VAN TUYLE

Concept art on page 8.

DAN COOPER

Concept art on page 9.

IAN GOODING

Concept art on pages 10, 66–67.

CAMILLE ANDRE

Concept art on pages 11, 35, 40–41, 53, 62, 63.

JASON HAND

Concept art on pages 13, 21, 30.

NEYSA BOVÉ

Concept art on pages 2–3, 13, 70–71.

JIN KIM

Concept art on pages 16, 18, 25, 29, 37, 38, 44.

MEG PARK

Concept art on pages 17, 36, 39, 43, 49.

MAC GEORGE

Concept art on pages 19, 46–47.

NICK ORSI

Concept art on page 25.

MATTHIAS LECHNER

Concept art on pages 26–27, 34.

GRISELDA SASTRAWINATA-LEMAY

Concept art on page 28.

ZAC RETZ

Concept art on pages 48, 60.

SETH BOYDEN

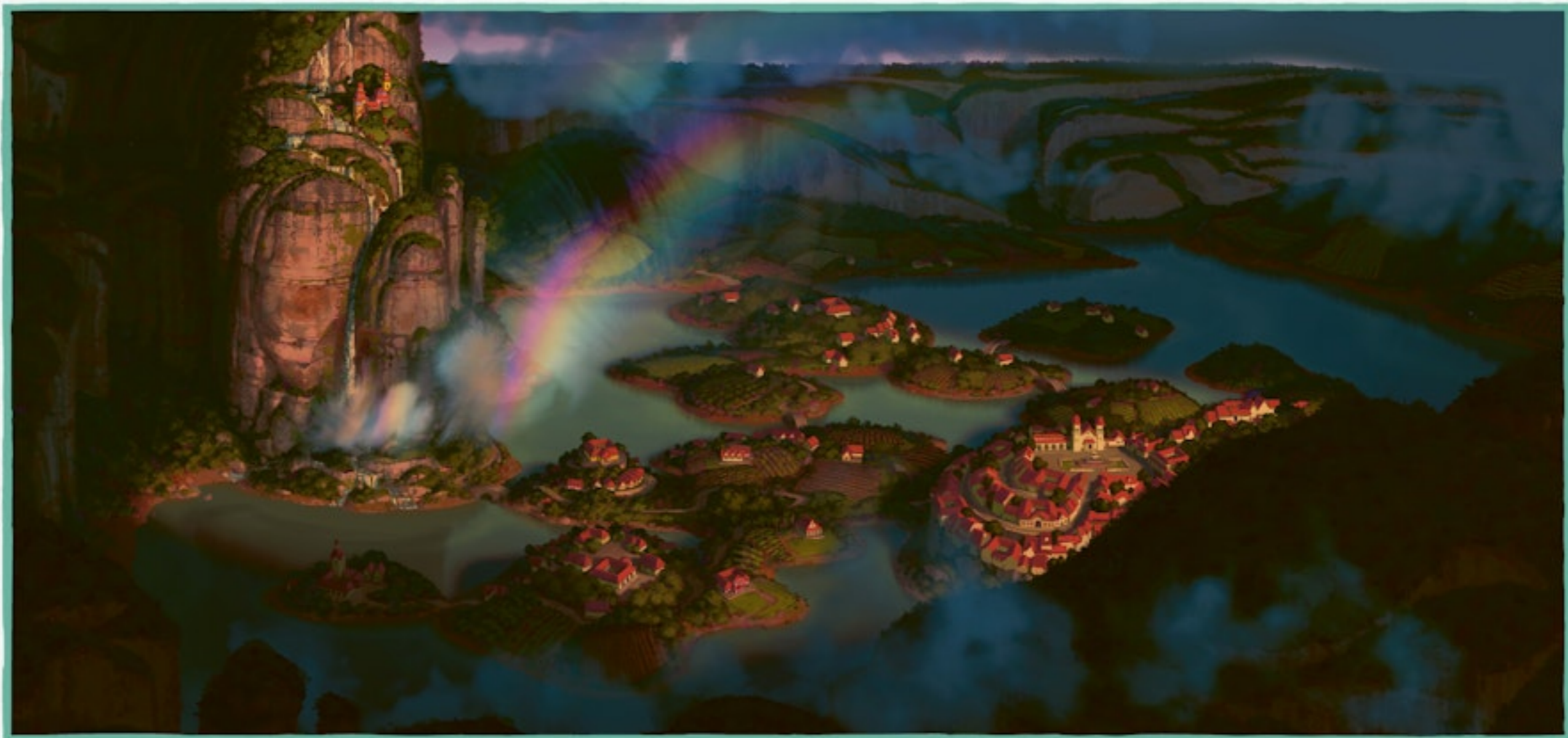
Concept art on page 56.

BYRON HOWARD

Concept art on page 59.

RENATO DOS ANJOS

Concept art on page 64.



Concept art showing the setting for the village, with Casita positioned up on the mountainside.
IAN GOODING / DIGITAL



Mirabel's clothing is a reflection of her personality and has been hand customised.
LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL



During early designs the film was set in the 1950s which is reflected in the characters' outfits. LORELAY BOVÉ / DIGITAL



GLUED DOWN